

Dowell, Jerry

From: Scott, Anita [AScott@stj.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2008 1:06 PM
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Subject: Rural High Speed Internet task Force

Dear Lt. Governor and Task Force Members,

I have to tell you how excited I have been since hearing a few months ago that the Governor had appointed a team to look into rural internet access. My daughter, now a high school freshman, has been in a gifted program since the 3rd grade. Very early on she had to rely heavily on the internet for many of her projects. She's been, and still is, involved in numerous projects including science fairs, National History Day, and debate. She needs better computer access to research her projects, but it just isn't available to us. I've had to bring her to work with me in Joplin and let her use my office computer, or take her and her laptop to one of the local shops or restaurants which offers WiFi. I have been looking into satellite broadband access, but as a single parent--that's quite an expense.

We live approximately 12 miles south of Joplin. Our only internet access at home is through slow dial-up. To download even a short video or download software updates, we often leave our computers on overnight and hope we don't get booted off before the download is complete. Unless you've lived in a rural area, you don't realize the limitations. We don't even have cell phone access at our home. None of the cellular towers are located so that we receive signal from them.

I heard discussion of the task force on the news this morning. I thought I also heard someone say that possibly the best option was for municipalities to provide rural access. If you live close to the city, that's probably a viable option. But how far would that access extend?

Please consider those of us in more remote areas as you continue your research and formulate a recommendation. I will very eagerly watch the news for further developments.

Sincerely,

Diane Scott